

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 25 and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 24, 26, and 28 have been amended, and claims 29-40 have been newly added. Support for these amendments is provided in Fig. 3 and paragraphs [0086] and [0087] of the published specification. The amendments were not submitted earlier due to the unforeseeability of the remarks presented in the Final Rejection. (It should be noted that references herein to the specification and drawings are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the referenced embodiments.)

Claims 24-28 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Shohara et al. (US 6,804,503) in view of Kohno et al. (US 7,502,818). To the extent that these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended and new claims presented herein, the Applicants respectfully traverse as follows.

Claim 24 defines an intermittent communication method in which a communication terminal apparatus, upon receiving a signal to do so from a communication terminal accommodation apparatus, operates according to an intermittent communication mode having predetermined active and sleeping periods. When operating in the intermittent communication mode, the communication terminal apparatus: (1) performs data communication using the predetermined active period and (2) performs, upon receiving a NACK signal from the communication terminal accommodation apparatus, a retransmission of the data communication using the sleeping period. The claimed subject matter provides advantages of maintaining

power-saving operations in an intermittent communication mode and saving communicated data through retransmission, thereby reducing the probability of discarding packets and improving the efficiency of transmission (see paragraphs [0006] and [0087] of the published specification).

The Final Rejection acknowledges that Shohara does not disclose the Applicants' claimed subject matter of a communication terminal apparatus that performs, upon receiving a NACK signal from a communication terminal accommodation apparatus, a retransmission of a data communication (see Final Rejection, sentence bridging pages 3 and 4). To overcome this deficiency, the Final Rejection proposes that Kohno discloses this subject matter in column 24, lines 36-39 (see page 4, lines 1-5).

However, in the cited material, Kohno discloses sending a retransmission packet with frame data having a next timestamp, upon receiving a NACK signal (see Kohno col. 24, lines 36-39). Kohno does not disclose the Applicants' claimed subject matter of intermittent communication or retransmitting data in a sleeping period of intermittent communication.

In summary, Shohara discloses communicating data in an active period of intermittent communication and Kohno discloses sending a retransmission packet upon receiving a NACK signal. The combined teachings of Shohara and Kohno seem to suggest communicating a retransmission packet in an active period of intermittent communication upon receiving a NACK signal. By contrast to the teachings of Shohara and Kohno, the Applicants' claimed subject matter recites communicating a retransmission packet in a sleeping period of intermittent communication upon receiving a NACK signal.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the teachings of Shohara and Kohno, even if combined as proposed in the Final Rejection, still would lack the above-noted features of claim

24, and thus these references, considered individually or in combination, do not render obvious the subject matter now defined by claim 24. Independent claims 26, 28, and 38-40 now similarly recite the above-mentioned subject matter distinguishing method claim 24 from the applied references, but claims 26, 28, 39, and 40 do so with respect to apparatuses. Therefore, allowance of claims 24, 26, 28, and 38-40 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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